

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse 13 of chapter 3. Last week I taught in part a case study to demonstrate the horrific results of what can happen, when people refuse to make application of God's Word.
2. Before we continue that analysis you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then pick up with new material at point 16 on page 4.
4. Now let's return to our case study.



1. David is king of Israel and Judah. David won a civil war with a northern coalition led by Saul's titular head, Ishbosheth, and his military Chief of Staff, Abner.
2. Ishbosheth & Abner have a falling out over a woman. As a result, Abner sues for peace with David. The two agree the kingdoms should be merged. As part of the deal, David makes Abner his Chief of Staff.
3. David's nephew Joab is passed over for promotion, even though he had loyally, and very successfully, pursued the battle against the forces of Abner. In one such battle, Abner had reluctantly killed Asahel, the baby brother of Joab.

4 Joab, Abishai and Asahel were sons of Zeruah David's half sister. Each of her sons became famous as warriors. Joab will not forgive David for his being passed over in favor of Abner. Joab will refuse David's authority by murdering Abner.

5. Joab, Abishai and Asahel had the same mother but different fathers. According to 2Sa 17:25 Zeruah was the sister of Abigail who is said to be, the daughter of Nahash. Apparently David's mother had the two daughters by a previous marriage to Nahash, king of Ammon.

6. Zeruah is mentioned often in Scriptures due to the prominence of her sons. The name of Zeruah's husband is not known. We do know the father of Zeruah is Nahash. Nahash was an Ammonite king who besieged Jabesh-gilead after Saul had been anointed king by Samuel (1Sa 11:1-2; 12:12).

7. The three nephews of David were military leaders in David's army. Joab and Abishai being the foremost. The first mention of Joab's military service is at the battle of Gibeon.

7.1 At Gibeon, David's army led by Joab battled and defeated Ishbosheth's forces. It is at Gibeon that Abner reluctantly slew Joab's younger brother Asahel. 2Sa 2:32

7.2 A blood revenge developed between the two leaders that led to the death of Abner. David lamented Abner's death. 2Sa 3:26-32

8. Joab's revenge was also in part motivated by David's act of negotiating an end to his 7 year civil war with Ishbosheth. David's act of placing Abner in charge of his army was but another "burr under Joab's sensitive blanket." 2Sa 3:17-25

9. David is not happy with this act of Joab, but because he fears the sons of Zeruah he does nothing. David's feelings about these events are expressed in 2Sa 3:39.

9.1 The act of Joab in killing Abner did result in the surrender of Ishbosheth's forces. He was murdered by two of his military captains, his head cut-off, and taken to David; the two were surprised at David's reaction. 2Sa 4:1-12

10. Later in the battle for Jerusalem Joab is made head of the army. 1Ch 11:5-6 and 2Sa 5:6-10

11. Joab led the forces of David in their conquest of Rabbah, capital of Ammon, in a "dicey" battle which certainly could have gone either way. 2Sa 10:1-19

11.1 It was at the battle of Rabbah that both David and Joab participated in a conspiracy to murder Uriah the Hittite. 2Sa 11:14-26

11.2 At this battle Joab displayed loyalty to his king by asking David to come and take the city. 2Sa 12:27-29

12. Joab was the "leader" of the forces which defeated the army of Absalom. It was there Joab killed Absalom. 2Sa 18:1-18

13. Joab rebuked David for his failure to celebrate the defeat of Absalom. 2Sa 18:19-8

14. Later in a campaign against Sheba, Joab murdered Amasa because David had placed Amasa in charge of the army. This occurred after the defeat of Absalom's forces.

14.1 A point or two about Amasa is in order. First we will find out how he is related to David, how he betrayed David, how David forgave him and finally we will see how, and why, Joab murdered him. Amasa was a nephew of David, a son of David's sister Abigail and Jether, an Ishmaelite. 1Ch 2:13-17

14.1.1 After Absalom's revolt failed, David forgave Amasa and made him commander of his forces in place of Joab. 2Sa 19:13

14.1.2 After the fall of Absalom, a man named Sheba sought to keep the revolt alive. 2Sa 20:1-2

14.1.3 David instructed Amasa to assemble the army to pursue Sheba, but Amasa delayed too long. 2Sa 20:4-5

14.1.4 David then sent Abishai, cousin of Amasa and brother of Joab, to find out why the delay and to spur-on Amasa. 2Sa 20:6

14.1.5 Though not authorized to go on this mission, Joab followed Abishai and joined the expeditionary force. At Gibeon the forces of Amasa and Abishai met. Feigning to kiss him, Joab seized Amasa by his beard and slew him with his dagger. 2Sa 20:7-10

15. Joab was against David's numbering of the people of Israel for military service. Joab partially followed David's orders; he took only a partial census of Israel. David ultimately recognized his error. 2Sa 24:9-10

15.1 The writer of Chronicles tells us David was motivated to take the census by Satan. 1Ch 21:1

15.2 The writer also tells us Joab did not count the tribes of Levi and Benjamin, because he considered David's order abominable. 1Ch 21:6

15.3 God was displeased with David's lack of faith.

1Ch 21:7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.

16. Joab supported Adonijah as David's successor. Joab, apparently knew of David's desire to have Solomon succeed him but chose to again act in rebellion. On David's death bed, he asks Solomon to execute Joab.

1Ki 2:1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.  
1Ki 2:2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man,  
1Ki 2:3 and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,  
1Ki 2:4 and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'  
1Ki 2:5 "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me--what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.  
1Ki 2:6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.  
1Ki 2:7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.  
1Ki 2:8 "And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.'  
1Ki 2:9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood."

17. For this and other indiscretions, Joab is executed by Benaiah at the order of Solomon.

1Ki 2:28 When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the horns of the altar.  
1Ki 2:29 King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, "Go, strike him down!"  
1Ki 2:30 So Benaiah entered the tent of the LORD and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!'" But he answered, "No, I will die here." Benaiah reported to the king, "This is how Joab answered me."  
1Ki 2:31 Then the king commanded Benaiah, "Do as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and so clear me and my father's house of the guilt of the innocent blood that Joab shed.  
1Ki 2:32 The LORD will repay him for the blood he shed, because without the knowledge of my father David he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them--Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army--were better men and more upright than he.  
1Ki 2:33 May the guilt of their blood rest on the head of Joab and his descendants forever. But on David and his descendants, his house and his throne, may there be the LORD'S peace forever."  
1Ki 2:34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and

he was buried on his own land in the desert.

18. Ahithophel will be mentioned in our case study. He is a minor character but important. Ahithophel is Bathsheba's grandfather. He is also David's most trusted policy advisor, at least up until the political rape of his granddaughter.

19. Let's return to our case study of partial forgiveness. As we proceed, be sure to look for the failure of David to quickly punish Amnon, Absalom's failure to forgive Amnon, David's failure to forgive Absalom, Absalom's failure to forgive David and Ahithophel's failure to forgive David and a host of other violations of God's protocol. When major failures take place there is often "hell to pay."

### David and Absalom

1. David had a son named Absalom who was much like his dad. David created a tenuous family relationship because he did not apply God's rules concerning marriage.
2. Absalom had a sister named Tamar and a half-brother named Amnon. The same father but different mothers created a situation ripe for trouble.
3. Amnon liked the looks of his half-sister and rather than using the two power options he yielded to the desires of his old sin nature.
4. The story reads like a modern romance novel gone bad.

- Amnon wants sex from Tamar.

2Sa 13:1 In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

2Sa 13:2 Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

2Sa 13:3 Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man.

2Sa 13:4 He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

- A sinister plot is developed.

2Sa 13:5 "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"

- Amnon lays a trap for Tamar.

2Sa 13:6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread

in my sight, so I may eat from her hand."

2Sa 13:7 David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him."

2Sa 13:8 So Tamar went to the house of her half-brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it.

2Sa 13:9 Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat. "Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him.

2Sa 13:10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom.

2Sa 13:11 But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

2Sa 13:12 "Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing.

2Sa 13:13 What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you."

- A rape takes place.

2Sa 13:14 But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

2Sa 13:15 Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

2Sa 13:16 "No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me." But he refused to listen to her.

2Sa 13:17 He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her."

- Amnon was not in love--he was in lust.

2Sa 13:18 So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing a richly ornamented robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore.

2Sa 13:19 Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

- Absalom hears--and seeks justice.

2Sa 13:20 Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman.

2Sa 13:21 When King David heard all this, he was furious.

- Absalom's anger goes underground because David did nothing.

2Sa 13:22 Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon

because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

- Absalom commands his men to murder Amnon.

2Sa 13:23 Two years later, when Absalom's sheep shearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there.

2Sa 13:24 Absalom went to the king and said, "Your servant has had shearers come. Will the king and his officials please join me?"

2Sa 13:25 "No, my son," the king replied. "All of us should not go; we would only be a burden to you." Although Absalom urged him, he still refused to go, but gave him his blessing.

2Sa 13:26 Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon come with us." The king asked him, "Why should he go with you?"

2Sa 13:27 But Absalom urged him, so he sent with him Amnon and the rest of the king's sons.

2Sa 13:28 Absalom ordered his men, "Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him. Don't be afraid. Have not I given you this order? Be strong and brave."

2Sa 13:29 So Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. Then all the king's sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.

- David hears the bad news.

2Sa 13:30 While they were on their way, the report came to David: "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons; not one of them is left."

2Sa 13:31 The king stood up, tore his clothes and lay down on the ground; and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

2Sa 13:32 But Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom's expressed intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar.

2Sa 13:33 My lord the king should not be concerned about the report that all the king's sons are dead. Only Amnon is dead."

2Sa 13:34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled. Now the man standing watch looked up and saw many people on the road west of him, coming down the side of the hill. The watchman went and told the king, "I see men in the direction of Horonaim, on the side of the hill."

2Sa 13:35 Jonadab said to the king, "See, the king's sons are here; it has happened just as your servant said."

2Sa 13:36 As he finished speaking, the king's sons came in, wailing loudly. The king, too, and all his servants wept very bitterly.

- Absalom flees to his maternal grandfather's land.

2Sa 13:37 Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned for his son every day.

2Sa 13:38 After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years.

2Sa 13:39 And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.

- Joab would like to see Absalom as the heir; so he put a female friend up to a deceptive task.

2Sa 14:1 Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

2Sa 14:2 So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead.

2Sa 14:3 Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

- The woman from Tekoa presents Joab's hypothetical anecdote. Keep in mind, to have a male heir was most important in Jewish society.

2Sa 14:4 When the woman from Tekoa went to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honor, and she said, "Help me, O king!"

2Sa 14:5 The king asked her, "What is troubling you?" She said, "I am indeed a widow; my husband is dead.

2Sa 14:6 I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him.

2Sa 14:7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed ... They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth.'

- David makes a sweeping judgment but in so doing, according to Jewish law, the king assumes the guilt of the one committing the crime.

2Sa 14:8 David said to the woman, "Go home, and I will issue an order in your behalf."

- The lady from Tekoa protests: the king should not be guilty, let me bear the guilt she proclaims.

2Sa 14:9 But the woman from Tekoa said to him, "My lord the king, let the blame rest on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt."

2Sa 14:10 David replied, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you again."

- The woman wants David to swear on Jehovah that there will be no avenger and David so declares.

2Sa 14:11 She said, "Then let the king invoke the LORD his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed." "As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "not one hair of your son's head will fall to the

ground."

- Now the brave woman reveals the real reason for her anecdote--what about you and Absalom? She first asks permission to speak freely.

2Sa 14:12 Then the woman said, "May I speak one more word to the king." "Speak," David replied.

2Sa 14:13 The woman said, "Why then have you done this very thing to your people? In this verdict, the king convicts himself by not bringing home his exiled son.

2Sa 14:14 Like water spilled on the ground which cannot be recovered, we all die sometime. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged forever.

2Sa 14:15 "And now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. I decided however, 'I will speak to the king; perhaps he will do what his servant asks even though he leaves his own heir banished.

- The woman has placed David in the position of her imaginary avengers. What the woman's avengers could do to her family by cutting off her only heir, David was doing to the people of God by punishing Absalom (David's rightful heir) for a crime he had committed in the heat of human anger.

2Sa 14:16 Perhaps the king will agree to deliver his servant from the hand of the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from the inheritance God gave us.'

2Sa 14:17 "And now your servant says, 'May the word of my lord the king bring me rest, for my lord the king is like an angel of God in discerning good and evil. May the LORD your God be with you.'"

- David suddenly realizes there is more to the woman's request than meets the eye.

2Sa 14:18 Then the king said to the woman, "Do not keep from me the answer to what I am going to ask you." "Let my lord the king speak," the woman said.

- David recognizes the ploy and suspects Joab's complicity.

2Sa 14:19 The king asked, "Isn't the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything my lord the king says. Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into the mouth of your servant.

2Sa 14:20 Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God-- he knows everything that happens in the land."

2Sa 14:21 The king said to Joab, "Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom."

2Sa 14:22 Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and he blessed the king. Joab said, "Today your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant's request."

- Joab brings Absalom back.

2Sa 14:23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

- King David "forgives," but not totally.

2Sa 14:24 But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.

2Sa 14:25 In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

2Sa 14:26 Whenever he cut the hair of his head-- he used to cut his hair from time to time when it became too heavy for him-- he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.

2Sa 14:27 Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. The daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

2Sa 14:28 Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.

- Absalom again asks for Joab's help.

2Sa 14:29 Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come.

2Sa 14:30 Then he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

2Sa 14:31 Then Joab did go to Absalom's house and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

2Sa 14:32 Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!" 'Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death."

- David finally forgives but the damage has already been done.

2Sa 14:33 So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

- Absalom's conspiracy begins--rebellion is in the air.

2Sa 15:1 In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.

2Sa 15:2 He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."

2Sa 15:3 Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

2Sa 15:4 And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that he gets justice."

2Sa 15:5 Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.

2Sa 15:6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2Sa 15:7 At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD.

2Sa 15:8 While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: 'If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.'"

2Sa 15:9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he went to Hebron.

- A coup is plotted at Hebron.

2Sa 15:10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'"

2Sa 15:11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

- Rebellion occurs with the help of Ahithophel, who had never forgiven David for his political rape of his granddaughter.

2Sa 15:12 While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor (and Bathsheba's Grandfather), to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

- Though David will return and live out his life as King, his failure to adhere to monogamy and total forgiveness resulted in a series of sad events, certainly to include Absalom's death.

2Sa 18:14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

1Ki 2:10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

1Ki 2:11 And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

1Ki 2:12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

5. Now let's see how Col 3:12 and 13 look by way of an expanded translation and then we will begin our analysis of Col 3:14.

**Col 3:12 Therefore in view of what we have just learned, you must clothe and invest yourselves like the elected ones of God, set-apart and loved by each member of the Trinity, manifesting an emotional stability and control consistent with your holy and beloved status; full of virtue love and kindness, modesty and humility of mind; always displaying stability even under pressure;**

**Col 3:13 endure and tolerate without complaint your fellow believers while also being gracious and forgiving to others. And if anyone has a complaint against another, they should forgive just as Christ forgave.**

End Lesson Taught 1-13-10